

Handel's *Messiah* opens Bravo! Vancouver concert season Sunday

A Christmas season tradition, George Frideric Handel's *Messiah*, will be presented at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, in St. Joseph Catholic Church, 300 S Andresen Road, by the Bravo! Vancouver Chorale and Chamber Orchestra, directed by **Maria Manzo**. Bravo's huge chorus, composed mostly of local singers, is augmented by well-known regional professional musicians.

The *Messiah* opens the 12th season of eclectic musical presentations by Bravo! Vancouver, directed by **Michael Kissinger**.

Bravo! Vancouver's season includes swinging chamber music in January, opera that rocks in February, St. Paul, an Oratorio, in April, which features the Washington State Ballet, an afternoon of Mozart by the Bravo! Chamber Orchestra in May, and concludes June with jazz music featuring the Pacific Jazz Orchestra. Except for the jazz concert, which is scheduled for Saturday night, all concerts are presented on Sunday afternoons.

Season tickets for all six concerts are \$80. Single reserved tickets, which are \$15, may be ordered through Bravo! Box Office, **906-0441** or www.bravoconcerts.com. Single tickets are also available at TicketsWest or at the door. Wine may be purchased by the glass before the concert and during intermission.

Local homelessness rising dramatically

Share, which since 1977 has cared for homeless and hungry in the greater Vancouver area, is reporting a dramatic rise in homelessness this year.

Share's Winter Hospitality Overflow program has seen a 26 percent increase in unduplicated clients, including a 67 percent increase in the number of children served, according to Share director of programming, **Amy Reynolds**. The WHO program is a partnership among Share, The Council for the Homeless, St. Andrew's Church and St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

The increases were recorded during the first two weeks of the winter program that began November 1. During the first two weeks, 52 adults and 24 children were served at St. Andrew's Church. During the same time period, St. Paul's church provided shelter for 24 single men, and an additional ten homeless men were accommodated in Share House.

Because of increased activity there is a need for increased support. Cash donations and other assistance will be accepted through the First United Methodist Church by calling **Becky Eichner, 693-5881**.

Holiday open house and artisans market in historical museum Saturday

In conjunction with its annual open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, the Clark County Historical Museum, 1511 Main Street, is offering an artisan's market featuring original paintings, illustrations, basketry, jewelry, wood carvings and metal works.

"We'll be offering a wide range of one-of-a-kind gift ideas," says **Susan Tissot**, museum director.

In addition to special displays, there will be hands-on craft activities for children, and retired Spokane, Portland, & Seattle Railroaders will tell train stories, according to Tissot.

Admission is free on this day, Tissot says. Fifth annual Festival of Nativities offering over 500 scenes from round the world

More than 500 nativity scenes from around the world are being presented today through Saturday, Dec. 3, in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 10509 SE 5th Street in Cascade Park. Admission is free.

Viewing hours are noon to 9 p.m. today through Saturday.

Nativity scenes from round the world are made from wood, ceramics, stone, porcelain, crystal, bread dough and other materials. In addition to nativities, original art work and tapestries by local and professional artists will be on display. A room has been set up where children can participate in hands-on activities and dress up in costumes. Musical performances by local high school choirs and groups complement the exhibit.

For further information, call **Fran Rutherford** at **896-2283** or **Joann Sorensen** at **695-6135**.

News brief

Auditions for the Junior Symphony of Vancouver are being scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 8, reports junior symphony conductor **Timoteus Racz**. Auditions are by appointment only. For further information, call **694-4084**, extension 5, or go to www.oregonchamberplayers.org.

Calendar

Charles Dickens *A Christmas Carol* is being presented in the Slocum House Theatre, 605 Esther Street, at 8 p.m. tonight through Saturday, Dec. 3, and at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4. Tents behind the O. O. Howard House in Vancouver Barracks come alive with Lewis and Clark stories and other bits of thousands of years of northwest history daily at part of a free Lewis and Clark Bicentennial exhibit, "Tents of Many Voices," with hourly programs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Sunday, Dec. 11. The tents are heated.

Thursday headlines at home and abroad

[Clark County has at last met federal air quality standards--Columbian](#)

[Bicyclists hope new lay helps make their travel safer--Columbian, **John Branton**](#)

[A "Merry Klager" Christmas--Columbian, **Tom Vogt**](#)

[C-TRAN transit center at Westfield Vancouver Mall to be replaced by super stops--Oregonian,](#)

[Bill Stewart](#)

[Florida racetrack developer wants \\$179 million in taxpayer money to build NASCAR speedway near Bremerton--Seattle Times, **Emily Heffter**](#)

[Snow misses Vancouver area, mountains get buried--KATU](#)

[Four U.S. troops killed in combat operations in Anbar, Iraq--New York Times, **Kirk Semple**](#)

[U.S. said to be paying to plant articles in Iraq papers--New York Times, **Jeff Gerth** and **Scott Shane**](#)

[Stocks climbing; economy stable; investors hope rally continues through the year--USA TODAY, AP, **Michael J. Martinez**](#)

Thursday on the air

City Minutes (11/13)—5:30 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Focus (10/14)—6 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Land Use Hearings (live)—7 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Len Leger offering hot piano deals. ☞ **Tom Hunt** offering a hearty handshake. ☞ **Dan Heine** treating friends. ☞ **Mike Worthy** coming up with yet another plan. ☞ **Angela Meining** trying out book recipes. ☞ **Karrie Smith** seeking Lincoln Day auction items. ☞ **Susan Garcia** notices hosiery. ☞ **Thursday**, gray and rainy, 41. **Friday**, really cold rainy periods, 42. **Saturday**, light rain, 44.